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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2003

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our strength and refuge, who shows us unfailing love, we see Your majesty in the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies. Your voice speaks in the thunder and You form the mighty oak. You reign as King forever, blessing Your people with peace.

Lord, protect us from destructive forces and rescue us from setbacks that ambush our dreams. Rise and help us, and we will sing about Your power. Let the world come to know Your faithfulness, which is as enduring as the heavens.

Teach our Senators to walk in Your ways and to trust Your promises, which cannot fail. Bless the members of their families, who share the challenges of their work. We wait upon You to supply our needs and to quench our thirst for purpose. Blessed be Your name forever and ever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will be in a period of morning business to allow Senators to speak for up to 10 minutes each. As I announced last night, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session.

Last evening, after a lengthy session with 14 rollcall votes, we were able to finish work on a number of items. We were able to pass the Healthy Forests bill as well as complete action last night on the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. We were also able to reach agreements on a number of other important matters, including the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental, the Interior appropriations conference report, the continuing resolution, as well as the Internet tax moratorium legislation.

Earlier in the day, the Senate considered the climate change bill and failed to invoke cloture on the nomination of Charles Pickering.

As a reminder, the next vote will occur on Monday at some point, most likely between 5:30 and 6 o'clock. That vote will be on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the Interior appropriations. Also on Monday, the Senate will consider the Iraq supplemental conference report; however, that conference report will be completed without a rollcall vote.

I also remind my colleagues that earlier in the week we reached a consent

on a fair credit reporting bill. I expect the Senate would turn to that measure on Tuesday.

I mentioned a few moments ago the Internet tax moratorium bill. What we agreed to last night was that we would address that bill next week, and as part of that agreement, that we would not address it prior to Thursday. With the current extension expiring, it was my hope that the Senate could have finished that bill last night or today, prior to that deadline, but a few Members have raised concerns and desire amendments. Thus, it will be our intent to finish that bill at the end of next week, rather than this week. The agreement, again, will lead us to turn to that on Thursday, and I expect, after giving Senators the opportunity to offer, hopefully, relevant amendments, that we would move that bill toward passage on either Thursday or Friday.

Another item that will demand the Senate's attention next week is the Syria accountability bill. Senator SANTORUM has been working on getting that measure cleared, and we hope to schedule that vote very early next week.

Finally, I add we will continue to consider the available appropriations conference reports as they become available.

Having said all that, you can see that next week is shaping up to be another very active week of floor action. With Members' continued cooperation, we can finish our business and still adjourn at the earliest opportunity this year. I do thank Members for their cooperation and participation in allowing

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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